



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Commercial red meat production during February 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds, the same as last year. This is 37 percent below the January 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 495,000 pounds live weight, down 18 percent from February 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,010 pounds, was up 44 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 132,000 pounds live weight, up 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 271 pounds, was up 6 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005.

Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2006 commercial red meat production was 7.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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